

DIFFRACTION GRATING WITH REDUCED POLARIZATION SENSITIVITY

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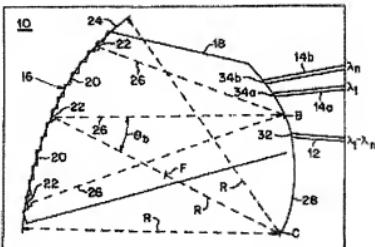
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A multiplexer/demultiplexer (10) for routing different wavelength signals between a common pathway (12) for conveying a plurality of the signals, and individual pathways (14a-14b) for separately conveying the signals, includes a reflective diffraction grating (16) with reduced polarization sensitivity for dispersing the signals. The grating (16) includes facets (20) that are oriented for reducing efficiency variations within a transmission bandwidth and that are shaped for reducing differences between the diffraction efficiencies in two orthogonal directions of polarization.



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